

TOWN OF CHEVY CHASE
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
July 14, 2021

Council & Staff (via videoconference)

Barney Rush, Mayor
Irene Lane, Vice Mayor
Joy White, Treasurer
Joel Rubin, Secretary
Ellen Cornelius Ericson, Community Liaison

Todd Hoffman, Town Manager
Dave Walton, Permitting Manager
Ron Bolt, Town Attorney

Residents and Guests

Residents and guests attended by videoconference.

COUNCIL WORK SESSION

The Town Council held a work session with the Town's Climate and Environment Committee to discuss the committee's recommendations on amending the Town's Urban Forest Ordinance and adopting the County's Healthy Lawns Act. The Council agreed with the committee's recommendations and asked the Town attorney to draft ordinances for introduction at the September Council meeting.

I. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Lane moved to approve meeting minutes. Councilmember White seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

C. Acceptance of Financial Report

The Council discussed and accepted the June 2021 financial report.

D. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Todd Hoffman reported on the initiatives undertaken by staff over the past month.

E. Public Comments

The Council heard public comments.

II. VARIANCE HEARING

A. Gooden, 7400 Connecticut Avenue, Accessory Building Rear Yard Lot Coverage

Town staff member Dave Walton reported that Winston Gooden, 7400 Connecticut Avenue, was requesting a variance for accessory building rear yard lot coverage.

The applicant described the plan and the need for the variance. Several residents spoke to the variance request. The Council discussed the request.

Mayor Rush moved to approve the variance, with the condition that the applicant shall protect the fence on the neighboring property during construction of the accessory building. Councilmember White seconded the motion, which passed by a vote of 3-2, with Councilmembers Ericson and Lane opposed.

II. COUNCIL DISCUSSIONS

A. Montgomery Municipal Cable Television (PEG Grants)

The Council heard a presentation by the station manager at Montgomery Municipal Cable Television (MMCTV). The Council and the station manager discussed opportunities for MMCTV to assist the Town more directly in enhancing meeting coverage and connectivity to residents. The Council asked the Town Manager to research options for providing audio/visual support for Town events and assessing the potential added value of using the services of MMCTV.

B. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Relief Funds

The Council discussed the distribution and use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief funds. The Council reviewed options for potential eligible uses, including various drainage and green infrastructure projects within the Town, supporting non-profit organizations providing services to Town residents, supporting green infrastructure components related to developing an underground garage adjacent to the Farm Women's Market project and converting the surface parking lots to parks, and returning money to the State or Federal government. The Town Attorney explained various limitations and requirements of the Act, including the inability to provide funds to designated charities or other government jurisdictions not connected to any Town program. Councilmembers Ericson and White agreed

to work with the Town Manager and Town Attorney to prepare for a subsequent discussion of this issue.

C. ZTA 19-07 (Small Cell Towers)

The Council discussed the Town's response to County Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 19-07 related to small cell tower deployments. Mayor Rush and Councilmember Lane reviewed their meeting with County Councilmember Friedson to ensure that the Town would have the right to appear before a Hearing Examiner in the event of a review of a vendor's small cell application. The Council agreed to reassess the Town's telecommunications regulations once the ZTA is approved by the County Council.

D. Zimmerman Park Redevelopment

The Council discussed Zimmerman Park improvements. Councilmembers Ericson and Lane agreed to assist the Town Manager in reviewing proposals for project management support. The Council discussed planning for periodic off-leash dog events in Zimmerman Park. The Council asked the Town Manager to report back at the July 29 work session.

E. Thrive Montgomery 2050/Attainable Housing Strategies

The Council discussed the status of, and the community coalition's response to, the County's general plan update (Thrive Montgomery 2050) and the Planning Board's proposed Attainable Housing Strategies.

F. Town Election Regulations/Voting Eligibility

The Council discussed Town election and voting eligibility regulations. The Council asked the Election Board to review Town election procedures vis-à-vis a universal vote-by-mail system. Councilmember Ericson agreed to lead the effort to study whether to lower the voting age in Town to 16 years old.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joel Rubin, Secretary

Transcribed by Todd Hoffman, Town Manager

Audio recordings of Town Council meetings are available on the Town website (www.townofchevy Chase.org) approximately one week following each meeting.